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In addition, with such an advancement in the field, users who develop applications for a single network processor will be able to upgrade to using several processors without having to rewrite any of the object management system messaging code. This approach is not limited to Intel® architectures; it may also be implemented on other non-Intel® related architectures.

IN THE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

In the brief description of FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B beginning on page 2, line 18, please amend as follows:

FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B together form a flowchart showing the operations involved in a local write lock request, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[In the brief description of FIG. 4 beginning on page 2, line 20, please amend as follows:]

FIG. 4 is a flowchart showing the operations involved in a local read lock request, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[In the brief description of FIG. 5 beginning on page 2, line 22, please amend as follows:]

FIG. 5 is a flowchart depicting the operations involved in a remote write lock request, according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[In the brief description of FIG. 6 beginning on page 3, line 1, please amend as follows:]

FIG. 6 is a flowchart showing the operations involved in a local write lock release, according to an embodiment of the present invention.